17. Development of Roots and Tuber Crops.
18. Development of Cocoa and Cashew.
19. Integrated Programme for Development of Spices.
20. Development of Mushroom.
21. Use of Plastics in Agriculture.
22. Bee-Keeping.
23. National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas.
24. Scheme for Foundation and Certified Seed Production of Vegetable Crops.
25. Soil Conservation in Catchments of River Valley Projects and Flood Prone Rivers.
26. Reclamation and Development of Alkali Soils.
27. State Land Use Boards.

Development of Potato seeds in the North-Eastern Region

2138. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plans to develop potato seeds in the North-Eastern Region where potato is cultivated on a large scale;

(b) the measures taken to develop the existing Mao Potato Seedling Farm (Manipur); and

(c) the reasons for not taking up measures like that of Simla Potato farms in the North-East farms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) The Central Government provides Breeder Seed of potato to State Governments in the North Eastern Region for multiplication into foundation, certified/quality seed. The Manipur Government is planning to establish a quality seed production station at Mao for which Central Potato Research Institute (CPRI), Shimla will provide technical knowhow in a collaborative programme.

(b) The State Government plans to convert a part of the existing Regional Potato Farm, Mao to Breeder Seed Potato Production Farm, under North-Eastern Council Programme.

(c) Topography and climatic conditions, besides the presence of

sphid population in the North Eastern region which help in spreading virus, are major constraints in production of breeder seed of potato. However, production of quality seed may be taken up successfully.

Development of Agricultural Production In the NE States

2139. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plans to develop agricultural production in the North-Eastern Region by issuing white paper with future planning;

(b) if so, the measures taken up by Government; and

(c) if not, the total food production in the North-Eastern States to meet the requirement of each State and future plans to meet the required products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The Government have not issued any White Paper to develop agricultural production in the North Eastern region. However, a number of Cetral Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes are being implemented in North Eastern States for the development of agriculture and towards achieving self-sufficiency. A list of schemes being implemented by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation in the region is given in the Statement *(See* below). In addition, a Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in the North-Eastern Region has recently been initiated.